(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce/minimise additional burden on exchequer in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As on 31st March 2008, 909 Central Government projects with anticipated completion cost of Rs.4,18,567 crores are on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Of these 909 projects, 346 projects are running behind schedule. The cost overrun in 346 delayed projects is Rs.24,689 crore which is 13.34% of the approved cost.

(c) Reasons for cost overrun in 346 projects in general are due to delays in implementation, change in scope of projects, interest on borrowed capital during construction, exchange rate variations in projects funded by external loans, high cost of rehabilitation, general price rise, etc. The specific reasons project-wise can be seen in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the period ending March 2008 placed in the Library of Parliament House.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the time and cost overruns in projects include:

(i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of projects before investment approval;

(ii) taking up projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;

(iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, law and order at project sites, etc.

(v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;

(vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

People above poverty line

†*157. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a person earning more than Rs. 456 per month in the country is being considered living above the poverty line by Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the basis formulated by Government to determine the said norm; and

(d) the number of persons being considered living above the poverty line at present on the basis of said norm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The Government uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure, and not earnings as the basis for determining the people living below or above the poverty line. The poverty line is different in the rural and urban areas and within each area the poverty lines differ among the states. The poverty line in 1973-74 has been expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.49.09 per month in the rural areas and Rs.56.64 per month in the urban areas at 1973-74 pieces at the national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in the rural areas and 2100 kcal in the urban areas. These national level poverty lines in the rural and urban areas have been disaggregated into state-specific poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of proportion and number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The latest estimate of state-wise poverty lines available for the year 2004–05 is given in the Statement (*See* below). The poverty line in the states ranges from Rs.292.95 to Rs.478.02 in the rural areas and from Rs.378.84 to Rs.665.90 in the urban areas.

The Planning Commission estimates percentage and number of people living below and above the poverty line from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor. As per the latest estimate, available for the year 2004–05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round (July 2004—June 2005) of the NSSO, 795.4 million persons (72.5% of the total population) lived above the poverty line in 2004–05.

Statement

State-Specific Poverty Lines in 2004-05

(Rs. per capita per month)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.'s	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	292.95	542.89
2.	Assam	387.64	378.84
3.	Bihar	354.36	435.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	322.41	560.00
5.	Delhi	410.38	612.91
6.	Goa	362.25	665.90
7.	Gujarat	353.93	541.16
8.	Haryana	414.76	504.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	394.28	504.49
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	391.26	553.77
11.	Jharkhand	366.56	451.24
12.	Karnataka	324.17	599.66
13.	Kerala	430.12	559.39
14.	Madhya Pradesh	327.78	570.15
15.	Maharashtra	362.25	665.90
16.	Orissa	325.79	528.49
17.	Punjab	410.38	466.16
18.	Rajasthan	374.57	559.63
19.	Tamil Nadu	351.86	547.42
20.	Uttar Pradesh	365..84	483.26
21.	Uttarakhand	478.02	637.67
22.	West Bengal	382.82	449.32
23.	ALL-INDIA*	356.30	538.60

*The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons (based on URP-consumption, *i.e.*, consumption data collected from 30-day recall period for all items) and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.

Code to regulate advertisements

*158. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new code to regulate the contents of advertisements so that there is no adverse effect of any kind on the children in the country;